



Columbia University NEWSLETTER

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Volume VIII

March 20, 1967

Special Issue

STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT KIRK TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

From the President:

I am sure that you have been made aware through the press of the "sit-in" by a small group of students in Dodge Hall on February eighth. As you may also know, I appointed immediately thereafter an advisory panel to conduct hearings and to make such disciplinary recommendations as the facts developed during the hearings might indicate.

That panel has now concluded its deliberations and has submitted its report and its recommendations. I have examined these and I have also read carefully the record of the hearings. Because of the widespread interest in this proceeding I have decided to make public the full text of the advisory panel's report which accompanies this statement.

I have decided to accept the panel's recommendations in all but two instances. First, the panel recommended that Mr. George Gruenthal, CC '68, be suspended for the 1967-68 academic year, but that the Dean of the College should be authorized to reconsider this suspension if Mr. Gruenthal so requested. Because Mr. Gruenthal was already under censure for a previous violation of University regulations, I have concluded that the one-year's suspension should be absolute and final.

Second, the panel proposed that Mr. Robert Dillon, of the Graduate Faculties, be censured and that he be deprived of the privilege of holding any fellowship awarded through the University during the 1967-68 academic year. Although the record indicates that Mr. Dillon had a leadership role in bringing about this acknowledged violation of University regulations, I feel that the imposition of disciplinary penalties should be separated from penalties of a financial nature. Accordingly, I have directed that Mr. Dillon be under permanent censure, which exposes him to severe disciplinary action in case of any further violation of University regulations, but that he be not deprived of such opportunity as he might otherwise have had to hold a fellowship awarded through the University for the next year.

As one of our senior professorial colleagues wrote me, "The issue in the case is not the morality of the CIA's activities or the wisdom of its being permitted to recruit on the campus, but simply the

A SPECIAL REPORT

On February 11, President Grayson Kirk formed an Advisory Panel to conduct hearings and to make recommendations regarding a "sit-in" by a small group of students in Dodge on February 8. This special issue of the Newsletter presents to the University community the Advisory Panel's report (beginning on page 2) and a statement in which President Kirk announces the action he has taken concerning the incident.

Extra copies of this issue of the Newsletter may be obtained from the Office of the Secretary, 213 Low.

penalties that can or should be imposed in a situation where a small group has attempted to press its own convictions on the institution by forceful means." No institution in the country can be more free than Columbia in allowing its students every reasonable means of expressing their views on any subject. The University, however, must and will insist that such expressions of view may not take any form which denies similar and equal rights to other students of differing views. As I have written to the students involved, "No self-appointed group is entitled, simply because its members feel strongly, to impose its will upon others." It is for this reason that, though peaceful picketing is authorized, recourse to violence by any student group is not.

March 16, 1967

(Those appointed by President Kirk to conduct the "sit-in" hearings were: Curtis J. Berger, professor of Law, chairman; David B. Truman, dean of Columbia College; Aaron Warner, Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Human Relations; Kevin Sullivan, associate dean of Graduate Faculties; David Langsam, College '67, president of the Columbia University Student Council, and David Ment, a doctoral candidate at Teachers College and member of CUSC.)